

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENNA 03532 141829Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /119 W
-----017117 150756Z /23

R 141818Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5982
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
CCMEADEASTFOR ATHENS

S E C R E T VIENNA 03532

USIAEA, CINCS ALSO FOR POLADS

DEPT PASS IO/SCT AND PM/ISO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OCLR, US, EG, UK, IAEA
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) TRANSIT OF SUEZ
CANAL

REF: (A) CAIRO 9848, (B) STATE 77783, (C) STATE 76755,
(D) CAIRO 9023, (E) VIENNA 2635 AND PREVIOUS MSGS

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1. MISSION HAS OBTAINED COPY OF IAEA LETTER DATED APRIL 10, 1978 TO EGYPTIAN RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE RESPONDING TO GOE REQUEST FOR IAEA SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF PASSAGE OF NUCLEAR POWERED VESSELS THROUGH SUEZ CANAL.
2. LETTER IS SIGNED BY I. S. ZHELUDEV (USSR), DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL OPERATIONS, AND

READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF
13 MARCH 1978 CONCERNING THE MATTER OF PASSAGE OF NUCLEAR
POWERED VESSELS THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL.

THE AGENCY HAS GIVEN IN THE PAST ASSISTANCE TO SOME
MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE EVALUA-
TIONS OF PORTS FOR THE ENTRY OF NUCLEAR MERCHANT VESSELS.
THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE PORT ENTRIES AND TRANSIT OF
THE SUEZ CANAL BY NUCLEAR POWERED VESSELS PRESENTS
CERTAIN ADDITIONAL ASPECTS AND THE AGENCY WILL ENDEAVOUR
TO OBTAIN THE SERVICES OF EXPERTS WHO ARE ABLE TO ASSIST
IN DEALING WITH THIS REQUEST.

AS SOON AS WE HAVE OBTAINED THE SERVICES OF SUCH EXPERTS
WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU CONCERNING THE NECESSARY
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SENDING OF A SAFETY ADVISORY
MISSION.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATIONS.
END TEXT.

3. MISSION UNDERSTANDS IAEA WILL SHORTLY BE SUBMITTING
REQUESTS TO U.S., AND PROBABLY ALSO TO UK AND FRG, FOR
APPROPRIATE EXPERTS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE
SECRET

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IN SAFETY ASSESSMENT MISSION. IAEA MAY ALSO "CONSULT"
WITH SOVIET MISSION TO IAEA ON ITS INTENTION TO MEET
GOE REQUEST. TIMING OF SAFETY ASSESSMENT MISSION WILL
DEPEND LARGELY ON RESPONSES RECEIVED BY IAEA, BUT IS
HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS,
UNLESS THERE IS PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON IAEA FOR
QUICKER ACTION.

4. FYI. WE UNDERSTAND SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA TWO OF
LETTER INITIALLY WAS DRAFTED TO REFER TO "NUCLEAR
MERCHANT VESSELS," BUT WAS CHANGED TO "NUCLEAR POWERED
VESSELS" IN THE CONCURRENCE PROCESS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND
LETTER INITIALLY WAS PREPARED FOR SIGNATURE OF ZHELUDEV
"FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL" (THE PROPER PROCEDURE), BUT WAS
CHANGED TO ZHELUDEV IN HIS CAPACITY OF DDG. (WE FIND IT
DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LATTER CHANGE,
BUT REPORT IT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.) END FYI.

5. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO HOW WASHING-
TON AGENCIES CONCERNED WOULD PREFER THAT THIS MATTER
PROCEED IN IAEA. SHOULD WE TRY TO SPEED THINGS UP? SLOW
THEM DOWN? OR LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE AND SIMPLY

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS?

6. PLEASE ADVISE. KIRK

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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